CITY OF MORGAN HILL
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES – JULY 26, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kennedy called the special meeting to order at 7:07 P.M.

ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

Present: Council Members Carr, Grzan, Sellers, Tate and Mayor Kennedy

DECLARATION OF POSTING OF AGENDA

City Clerk Torrez certified that the meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code 54954.2.

SILENT INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Kennedy opened the floor to public comment for items not appearing on this evening's agenda. No comments were offered.

ADJOURN

Mayor Kennedy announced that this special meeting agenda item would be taken up at the conclusion of the regular City Council/Agency Board meeting.

RECONVENE

Mayor Kennedy reconvened the special meeting at 10:36 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

1.   WATER SUPPLY SHORTAGE OPERATIONS PLAN

Director of Public Works Ashcraft indicated that the State had a critical problem in terms of energy infrastructure with the recent unprecedented heat wave, and that this strained the water supply capabilities of the City. He said that up until the past week, the City had almost enough of a water supply to meet peak demand, even if the City's largest well was out of service. Also, up until last week, the City's peak demand occurred in July 2003 at 12.8 million gallons of water per day (MGD). He said that the City currently has the capability of supplying 14 MGDs through 15 deep water wells. However, this past Sunday, the City substantially exceeded the 12.8 MGDs and supplied 13.48 MGDs of water. He indicated that most of the City's water demand is going toward irrigation, and that water usage was aggravated by very high temperatures. Based upon a new peak day demand of 13.48 MGDs, the City only has a 4% margin in the City's water supply.

Mr. Ashcraft informed the Council that should the Council concur with staff recommended actions, the Council would be giving the City Manager the authority to take further actions to reduce the biggest private irrigation accounts in the City, and ask that they immediately cut back on water usage in order to maintain fire flow in the reservoirs. He indicated that the State Water Code allows emergency actions to be taken should the City be unable to deliver water in a critical emergency; indicating that this action can be taken without a public hearing. Staff is requesting, in accordance with Section 351 of the State Water Code, the Council authorize the City Manager to take these actions. Should the City Manager need to take emergency action(s), staff would report the action(s) taken to the Council at the next available opportunity. Should the weather cool down soon, he did not believe actions would be necessary. However, the City should be prepared to take action, should it be necessary to do so.

Mr. Ashcraft noted the Council recently adopted an ordinance that mandates the installation of drought tolerant landscaping in order to reduce water demands on irrigation. The City also joined the Santa Clara Valley Water District in promoting the reconstruction of lawn areas into drought tolerant plantings. He stated the City is moving forward with upgrades and adding new water wells. He indicated that staff is negotiating for the acquisition of a water well with the hope that it will be under construction before the end of the summer; augmenting the City's water supply before summer 2007.

Mayor Kennedy opened the floor to public comment. No comments were offered.

Action: On a motion by Council Member Tate and seconded by Council Member Sellers, the City Council unanimously (5-0); in Accordance with Section 351 of the State Water Code: 1) ***Authorized*** the City Manager to take actions to Protect Public Safety when Water Supply Emergencies Occur; and 2) ***Reviewed*** and ***Acknowledged*** the Water Supply Shortage Action Plan.

FUTURE COUNCIL-INITIATED AGENDA ITEMS

No items were identified.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Kennedy adjourned the meeting at 10:41 p.m.

MINUTES RECORDED AND PREPARED BY:

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IRMA TORREZ, CITY CLERK